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At present the income to the Government from that source was very inappreciable, and if it ceased to be a Royal tree, it would act as an incentive to the people to grow teak largely in their private lands.

The Member next referred with gratification to the action that was being taken by the Conservator in making known to the people the uses of certain kinds of timber and the scope for industries afforded by the Travancore forests. He particularly referred to Mr. Rama Rao's Notes on 'Match-manufacturing Industry' and 'Tea Chest Industry'. The Notes went a great way in stimulating the public mind. But the other professional officers of the department did absolutely nothing in the useful direction indicated by the Conservator. There were several species of timber and other valuable forest produce, about the existence and uses of which the people were ignorant. He therefore suggested that some arrangement might be made by which information on topics like those might be given to the public from time to time in the form of pamphlets and leaflets similar to those issued by the Agricultural Department. He also requested that the Annual Reports of the Forest Department might be published in the Gazette and made available to the public.

Dewan's reply.—The remarks of the Member will be communicated to the Conservator of Forests. I am sure that the latter will find them suggestive and useful.

17. The difficulties now experienced in securing and transporting fuel and green manure required for agricultural purposes.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the subject was one that had been brought forward at the last session, but, as the ryots did not obtain any relief, it had to be taken up again. In the last issue of the Gazette, dated the 30th Makaram 1088, a G. O. had appeared—No. 1423/L. R. & A. dated the 8th February 1913—which gave the required relief to the ryots in two matters, *viz.*, abolition of the system of weighing cartloads of firewood for the levy of fee and the abolition of passes for the removal of green manure from private lands. The Member thanked the Government for those beneficial changes.

He then pointed out that the difficulties experienced by the people in getting free passes for transporting fuel from the registered lands were so great that to purchase fuel was thought to be less wasteful in regard to time and money. The applications for free passes had, under the rules, to be made to the Divisional Forest Officer. That was inconvenient especially because of the inordinate delay in the Divisional office. After repeated applications, the matter would be referred to the Forest Ranger, who would take his own time to inspect the place whence the fuel had to be removed. After that, the applicants would be told to cut and stack all the wood at once. The insistence was obviously inconvenient as it would not be possible for the ryots to collect a large supply lasting for months. Ordinarily, what they would require was a small supply which they could then afford to lay in for. Nor would it be easy to collect the firewood at one locality and arrange to watch it during the long period to be followed till the passes were actually granted. In practice the department never *refused* to give a pass, but, for one reason or other, by their delay and laxity, passes would not

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to be easily granted. The fear entertained by the department was that, if passes were freely granted, there was the chance of the applicants under cover of them stealing timber from the adjoining Sirkar lands. It was hard that the applicants should be made to suffer on that account. A large protective staff was being maintained by the department and they should be asked to carefully guard the forests against such fraudulent acts. Even when a pass was finally granted, the time for removal prescribed therein was invariably found to be short and insufficient. He therefore requested that such effective orders be issued as would remove the evils complained of.

Another hardship was in the matter of obtaining green manure from the Government forests. The stock of green manure in the private lands had all been mostly used up and the agriculturists had at present to resort to the distant Sirkar forests for the purpose. By G. O. No, 1907/S. R., dated the 16th April 1911, the ryots of the Thovala taluk were permitted, tentatively for two years, to remove green manure from the Government forests on payment of a duty of 4 annas per cart-load. The Member requested that, in the interests of agriculture in South Travancore, a similar arrangement should be made for the ryots of the other taluks in the division. He also said that the poor agriculturist felt the fee of four annas per cart-load as a heavy burden, which, along with the other disadvantages he was labouring under, he could not possibly bear. He therefore requested that the fee might be abolished altogether and the free removal of green manure from the Government forests permitted.

Dewan's reply.—The attention of the Conservator of Forests will be drawn to the Member's further representations.

18. The desirability of permitting green manure and timber for agricultural purposes to be collected from reserved forests.

Mr. Kanna Kunjan (Member, Nominated) said that, with the reservation of the Neriamangalam and other forests close to the Moovattupuzha taluk, the ryots of the taluk were undergoing very great hardships, as they could not freely remove green manure and slender branches of trees, otherwise not of much use to the Government, from them, for their agricultural purposes. The people were poor and subsisted mainly on cultivation. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to permit the ryots to remove green manure and timber for agricultural purposes free of payment from the adjoining forests.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

19. Payment of Kudivila to the owners of teak and blackwood trees standing on private lands.

Mr. Kanna Kunjan (Member, Nominated) said that much loss was incurred both by the people and the Government by leaving uncared for the teak, blackwood and other Royal trees cut and removed from private holdings. He therefore prayed that the people might be given, before removal, half the estimated value of such trees either in money or in timber, or that the Government might accept half the value and leave the trees to the charge of the people.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Minachil taluk) said that the present policy of the Government allowing only one-fourth of the value of the teak trees standing on

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